

ASDO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

NEPA Document Number: **DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2011-0007-DNA**

Project Title: **Esplin Land Acquisition – AZA-35290**

Project Lead: **Laurie Ford**

Date that any scoping meeting was conducted: N/A

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: **June 17, 2011**

Deadline for receipt of responses: **June 24, 2011 – PLEASE NOTE THE SHORTENED REVIEW PERIOD. Land and Water Conservation Funds have been approved for this land acquisition and must be used FY2011. The review period has been shortened to expedite the purchase process.**

ID Team/Required Reviewers will be determined at scoping meeting or as a default the following:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Lorraine Christian (Acting), Wildlife/T&E Animals
John Herron, Cultural Resources
Jacquilyn Roaque, Special Status Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
John Sims, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Pam McAlpin, GCPNM Manager

Required Recipients of electronic distribution E-mails only (not reminders):

Andi Rogers (E-mail address: arogers@azgfd.gov)
Sarah Reif (E-mail address: sreif@azgfd.gov)
LeAnn Skrzynski (E-mail address: lskrzynski@kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov)

(Ms. Rogers and Ms. Reif are Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) habitat specialists. Ms. Skrzynski is Environmental Program Director for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT). They may review and/or forward on ASDO NEPA documents to other employees. If a Project Lead receives comments from any AGFD employee on their draft NEPA document, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Kitti Jensen as the ASDO Wildlife Team Lead. Ms. Jensen will then recommend how these comments should be addressed. If a Project Lead receives comments from any KPT employee, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Gloria Benson as the ASDO Native American Coordinator. Ms. Benson will then recommend how these comments should be addressed.)

Discretionary Reviewers:

N/A

Worksheet – Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: **Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument**

NEPA DOCUMENT NUMBER: **DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2011-0007-DNA**

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: **AZA-35290**

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: **Esplin Land Acquisition**

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona
T. 33 N., R. 12 W.,
secs. 9, 21, and 28.
Containing 1,920 acres, more or less.

PROPONENT: **The Conservation Fund**

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures.

Purchase 1,920 acres of privately held property within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument as shown on the attached map and legal description above. Land and Water Conservation Funds would be used to purchase the surface estate of sections 9 and 21 and the surface and subsurface estate of section 28. Because the property has no tenants, no relocation expenses are to be considered for this purchase. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Management Plan (2/2008) states that non-federally administered lands and interests in lands can be acquired within the Monument from willing sellers to complement existing resource values and further the protective purposes of the Monument. The Conservation Fund acquired the property from the Esplin family, and the BLM would now acquire the land from The Conservation Fund.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name*: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan, approved February 2008

** List applicable LUPs (i.e., resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

DFC-LR-03 – Lands or interests in lands (both BLM and NPS administered) can be acquired to complement existing resource values and further/enhance the objectives of the proclamation/Monument.

MA-LR-01 – Non-federally-administered lands and interested in lands (including legal access to landlocked public land) will be acquired within the Monument by BLM/NPS from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation. . . . Interests in land include, but are not limited to, surface and subsurface rights, water rights, and easements for access, conservation, or other purposes.

MA-LR-02 – Both BLM and NPS-administered lands and interests in lands within the Monument will, upon acquisition, be reserved and/or managed as a part of the Monument, wilderness, etc., consistent with planning guidance and objectives.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action:

Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final EIS for the Arizona Strip Field Office, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and the BLM Portion of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and a proposed General Management Plan/Final EIS for the NPS Portion of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (released January 2007, approved February 2008)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report). N/A

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed land acquisition is essentially similar to Alternatives B, C, D, and E of the NEPA document referenced in Item C, above. Alternatives B, C, D, and E were identical as follows: Non-federally-administered lands and interests in lands (including legal access to landlocked public land) would be acquired within the Monuments by BLM/NPS from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation. . . . Interests in land include, but are not limited to, surface and subsurface rights, water rights, and easements for access, conservation, or other purposes. Additionally, all alternatives of the NEPA document referenced in Item C, above, provided that both BLM and NPS lands and interests in lands within the Monuments would, upon acquisition, be reserved and/or managed as a part of the Monuments, wilderness, etc., consistent with planning guidance and objectives.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document (referenced in Item C, above) is still appropriate with respect to the proposed land acquisition. Current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The existing analysis in the NEPA document referenced in Item C, above, is still valid and there is no new information or circumstances that would substantially change the analysis of the proposed land acquisition. Once acquired, the property would be managed for retention in accordance with the approved LUP referenced in Item B, above, and Monument objectives.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the proposed land acquisition are essentially the same (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The NEPA document referenced in Item C, above, was released in 2007, approved in 2008, and the assessment is still valid. Mohave County zoning for the land proposed for acquisition could allow subdivision approval for lots of 10 acres or larger in size. Any such future subdivision of these parcels could pose a stronger threat for recreation residential development, and any such development could fragment the landscape, make management of the surrounding Monument area more difficult, and perhaps increase the risk for other resource impacts and/or conflicts. The acquisition of land within Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument would prevent any threat of inappropriate development within the Monument, which would also tend to preclude any cumulative impacts.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The level of public involvement and interagency review associated with the NEPA document referenced in Item C, above, is adequate for the current proposed land acquisition as the document was released in January 2007, approved in February 2008, and is still valid and public involvement/review requirements have not changed. There was extensive public involvement and interagency review connected with development of the Monument RMP. Over 10,000 public comments were received on the Draft RMP/DEIS.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

BLM ID Team/Required Reviewers:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison	Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM	Linda Price, S&G
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals	Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds
Lorraine Christian (Acting), Wildlife/T&E Animals	Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
John Herron, Cultural Resources	John Sims, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Jacquilyn Roaque, Special Status Plants	Pam McAlpin, GCPNM Manager

Required Recipients of Electronic Distribution E-mails:

Andi Rogers (E-mail address: arogers@azgfd.gov)
Sarah Reif (E-mail address: sreif@azgfd.gov)
LeAnn Skrzynski (E-mail address: lskrzynski@kaibabpaiute-nns.gov)

Note: Refer to the EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original NEPA document referenced in Item C, above.

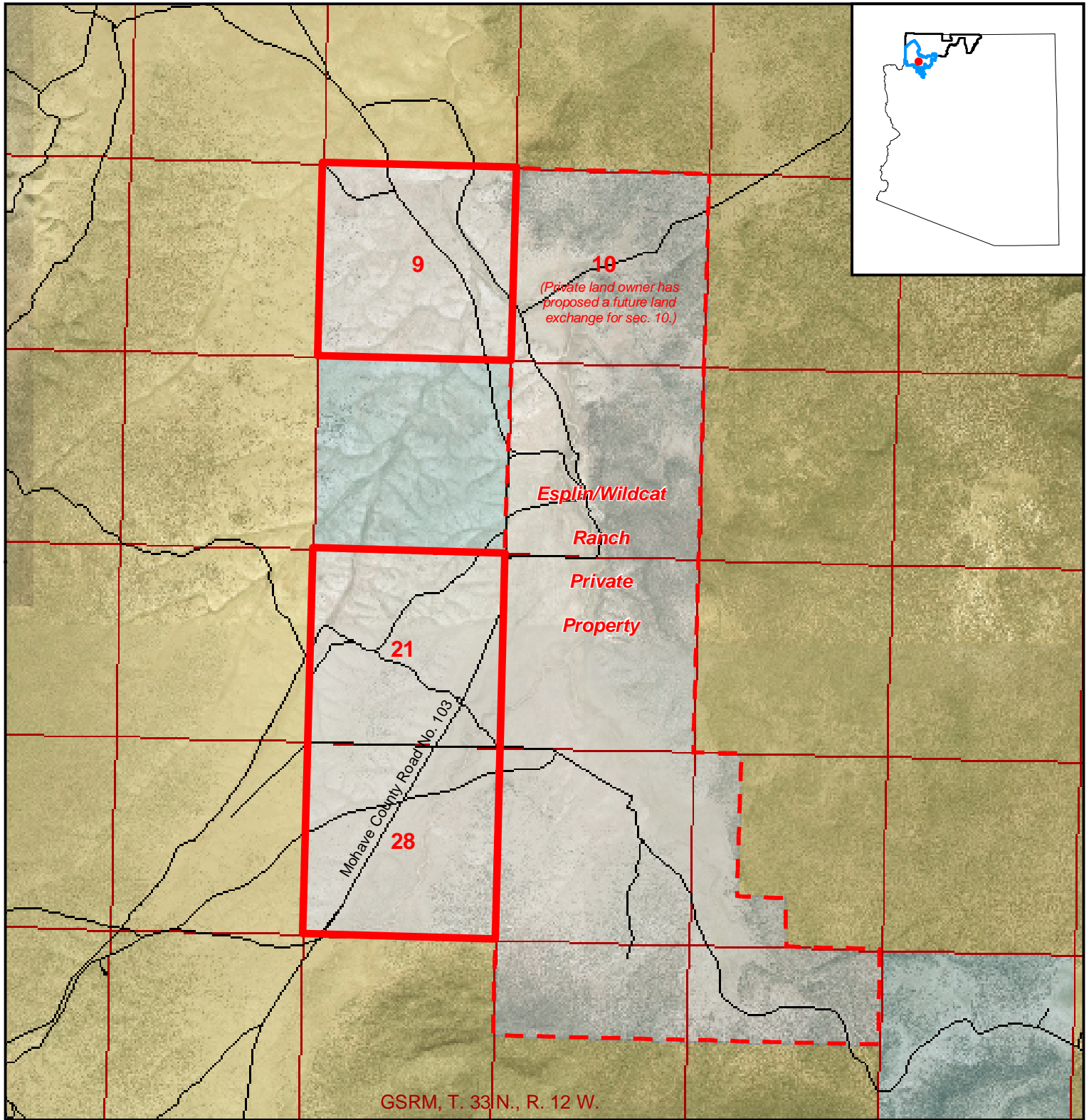
Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Pamela D. McAlpin, GCPNM Manager

Date

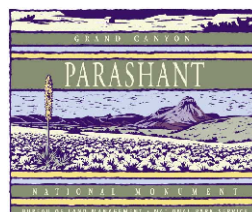
Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Legend

- Esplin Parcels
- BLM
- Private
- State



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument



Esplin Land Acquisition AZA-35290

CAUTION: Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

Map created on December 31, 2009

Decision Memorandum

Esplin Land Acquisition – AZA-35290 DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2011-0007-DNA

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Approval and Decision

Based on a review of the proposed land acquisition described in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy and Monument/Field Office staff recommendations, I have determined that the proposed land acquisition is in conformance with the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan (approved February 2008). The proposed land acquisition is an element of the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final EIS for the Arizona Strip Field Office, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and the BLM Portion of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and a proposed General Management Plan/Final EIS for the NPS Portion of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (Proposed RMP/FEIS) (released January 2007, approved February 2008). The existing analysis, range of alternatives, and direct, indirect, and cumulative effects are essentially the same as those analyzed in the Proposed RMP/FEIS. In addition, the level of public involvement and interagency review associated with the Proposed RMP/FEIS remains adequate for the proposed land acquisition. Because the property has no tenants, no relocation expenses are to be considered for this purchase. It is my decision to approve the land acquisition as proposed.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the Arizona Strip District Manager, who may sustain, vacate, or modify the proposed land acquisition. In the absence of any adverse comments regarding the proposed land acquisition, it will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Pamela D. McAlpin, GCPNM Manager

Date